

Pay & Personnel Newsletter

United States Coast Guard Pay & Personnel Center

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About the PPC Customer Newsletter: An authorized publication, the PPC Customer Newsletter is published under the direction of the U.S. Coast Guard Pay & Personnel Center. Views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of Homeland Security or the U.S. Coast Guard. The PPC Customer Newsletter shall not be considered an authority for any official action and is non-record material. The PPC Customer Newsletter is published quarterly. Articles are solicited from all readers.

How to submit an article: Articles for the PPC Customer Newsletter may be submitted by e-mail to [the Procedures & Development branch e-mail address "PPC-PF-PD"](#).

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TRICARE New Contractor Network Provider Directories Available

For care starting Jan. 1, 2018, check out the new TRICARE Network Provider Directories. Find your Network Provider Directory below:

- [TRICARE East Network Provider Directory](#)
- [TRICARE West Network Provider Directory](#)

Sign up for TRICARE email updates at www.tricare.mil/subscriptions.

CGHR: On the Radar Screen, 7 November

Welcome to the latest issue of CGHR: On the Radar Screen. You can access the newsletter when (and how) it's convenient for you – from work, from home, your smartphone, or your tablet. CGHR is your calendar for upcoming training and professional development events, as well as time-sensitive news.

You can read CGHR in its entirety by going to <http://www.dcms.uscg.mil/CGHR/11-7-17-CGHR/>

If you have trouble accessing any of the newsletter links from your Coast Guard workstation, forward this email so you can read CGHR at home (or share with your family).

In this issue, you will find:

- On the Horizon
- Articles and Resources
- Recent Flag Voices

- Coast Guard All Hands and Compass Blogs
- Recent Messages
- Defender Newsletter, October 2017
- Infographic

Earlier issues of CGHR can be accessed at <http://www.dcms.uscg.mil/CGHR>

Defense Travel Management Office Allowances and Regulations Update

The Defense Travel Management Office has updated the following information for 01 November 2017:

[OCONUS Non-Foreign and Foreign Per Diem Rates](#)
[Overseas Housing Allowances \(OHA\)](#)
[Overseas Cost of Living Allowances \(COLA\)](#)
[Joint Travel Regulations \(JTR\) and Appendices](#)

To access this information, visit the [DTMO Website](#).

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Post-9/11 GI Bill Eligibility and Transfer of Benefits

Please be aware of these two key points regarding the Post-9/11 GI Bill:

1. All Service Members must have a minimum of 6 years qualifying service to transfer their Post-9/11 GI Bill Education Benefits to their dependents. Service members with less than 6 years of service will have their request rejected.
2. If a Service Member has only one qualifying period of service after 31 July 2011, and elected and used a GI Bill program other than the Post-9/11 (Ch30 MGIB, Ch1606 MGIB-SR, etc), they will not be eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill. A Service Member in this situation will not be entitled to Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits, and will not be eligible to transfer Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to dependents. No exceptions

By Reidus Stokes Sr., GI Bill Management and Program Specialist.

Correction of Refund for Missed Meals Transactions

By CWO2 Brian Spina, Pay & Personnel Center

If an enlisted member is assigned to Essential Unit Messing (EUM) or Essential Station Messing (ESM), has a recurring CG Standard Meal Rate deduction from his/her pay, and the member's assigned duties or dining facility exigencies prevent government-furnished meals from being provided, the member is entitled to be credited back monies for meals missed. This credit is initiated via a **Direct Access Refund for Missed Meals (RMM) transaction** submitted by the Servicing Personnel Office (SPO).

RMM transactions submitted with the incorrect number of missed meals cannot be corrected. The SPO must cancel the incorrect transaction and resubmit with the correct number of missed meals. Use via **Pay Corrections Action Requests** to submit the cancellation of the transaction.

New Combined Federal Campaign Online Pledge System Eliminates Paper Pledge Forms, Protects Your Private Information

ALCOAST 340/17

COMDTNOTE 5298

SUBJ: IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CFC ALLOTMENTS

1. The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has implemented a new Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) Donor Pledging System for use across the Federal government (<https://cfcgiving.opm.gov/welcome>). The system allows donors to find charities and make contributions online through payroll deductions, credit/debit card, funds transfer from a bank account, and commitments to volunteer. The system will transmit payroll deduction requests directly to our civilian employee payroll provider (the National Finance Center (NFC)) or military payroll provider (Pay and Personnel Center (PPC)).
2. In the past, civilian employees and military members electing payroll deductions completed paper or electronic forms containing sensitive personnel information. Those forms were then emailed (or printed and mailed) for processing. In addition to increasing the risk of personal information spillage, the process was labor intensive. The advent of a new donor system reduces paperwork and removes a number of risks associated with the printing, mailing, and emailing of sensitive personnel information.
3. Everyone choosing to give is strongly encouraged to use OPM's CFC Donor Pledging System to keep your sensitive personnel information between you and your payroll provider or designated financial institution.
4. The process entails setting up an account, which should only take a few minutes. Users are reporting some delays in receiving a verification PIN from CFC. Please check your spam or junk email folders if you did not receive a verification PIN after attempting to sign-up for an online

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donor account. If you have any questions or need additional assistance with the CFC Donor Pledging System, visit

<https://cfcgiving.opm.gov/contact> or call (800) 797-0098/(608) 237-4898.

5. If you choose to make a payroll contribution by completing forms outside of the established OPM system, please follow the guidelines provided by your local CFC Campaign manager. Print and submit your completed pledge directly to your department or agency's Campaign Manager. Alternatively, forms can be mailed directly to the CFC Processing Center at P.O. Box 7820, Madison, WI 53707-7820.

6. Visit <https://cfcgiving.opm.gov/faq> for questions about the CFC Donor Pledging System. Additional information regarding changes to CFC can be found at <https://www.chcoc.gov/content/2017-combined-federal-campaign>.

7. Thank you to PPC and COMDTs (CG-631) and (CG-1B1) for their exceptional efforts to keep military payroll allotments available to members.

8. RDML W. G. Kelly, Assistant Commandant for Human Resources, sends.

9. Internet release authorized.

DoD Launches Blended Retirement System Comparison Calculator

The Defense Department has launched a [comparison calculator](#) for eligible service members to analyze their estimated retirement benefits under the legacy system and the new [Blended Retirement System](#).

The tool walks members through five screens, allowing users to adjust 12 data fields and compare benefit scenarios under both systems, Air Force Maj. Michael Odle, the Defense

Department's assistant director of military compensation policy, explained.

The calculator is aimed at helping eligible members make the best decision about whether to remain in the current retirement plan, known as the High-3 System, or opt into the Blended Retirement System, which goes into effect Jan. 1, he said.

Eligible service members have until Dec. 31, 2018, to enroll in the new system. Military members who enter service on or after Jan. 1 will automatically be enrolled in the BRS.

The tool is meant to provide flexibility so members can compare estimated benefits under a variety of situations, said Steve Galing, the lead analyst in the Defense Military Personnel Policy Analytical Directorate.

Members are advised to consult with a financial professional, he said. "This is a personal decision," he added. "There are a lot of various resources available to our members, but ultimately it is up to the member."

DoD-Endorsed Calculator

The calculator is a comprehensive tool designed to take into account the unique financial situations of all who serve -- active duty, National Guard members and reservists, Odle said, and it's designed to be used in conjunction with the mandatory BRS opt-in course.

This comparison calculator is the only comparison tool endorsed by DoD, he added.

The opt-in BRS course is available with a common access card through [Joint Knowledge Online](#) or through a service's learning management system. [Military OneSource](#) offers the course without a CAC. Military OneSource is hosting a Blended Retirement System question-and-answer session June 8 at 1 p.m. EDT on its [Facebook page](#).

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Additionally, an optional training course for the calculator will be available in the next weeks, Odle said.

Exploring Options Under Calculator

An information box will pop up when users hover over underlined text in the calculator, providing further information on that topic, Odle explained. Further information is available through the links in the "more info" section under each page of the calculator.

After a user inputs all the information, the calculator will generate a results page. Service members are encouraged to go through the process several times to see how their projected benefits change under various situations, Odle said.

The comparison calculator does not take into account optional [Thrift Savings Plan](#) service member contributions under the legacy plan, and it does not account for optional monthly automatic Treasury Direct Government Savings Bonds purchased under the legacy retirement plan, he explained.

All currently serving members are grandfathered under their legacy retirement plans. Active component service members with fewer than 12 years of service as of Dec. 31, 2017, and reservists in a pay status with fewer than 4,320 retirement points as of Dec. 31, 2017, are covered under the existing system, but are eligible to opt into the Blended Retirement System.

(Follow Lisa Ferdinando on Twitter @FerdinandoDoD)

Thrift Savings Plan (TSP Blended Retirement System (BRS) Resources Available

Thrift Savings Plan (TSP Blended Retirement System (BRS) Resources Available — (June 2, 2017) Two new sources of information—a fact sheet and a video—about the new Blended Retirement System (BRS) are now available. The information is meant to help members of the uniformed services who will have fewer than 12 years of service on December 31, 2017 decide whether to opt into BRS or stay with their current system. See the fact sheet [Questions and Answers about Opting into the Blended Retirement System \(BRS\)](#) and the video "[Opting into the Blended Retirement System \(BRS\)](#)."

Centralized Service Desk (CGFIXIT) Facility Relocation

By CGCYBER COMMAND (CGCYBER),

The Centralized Service Desk, which handles most of your CGFixIt calls and a emails, is temporarily relocating within our existing GSA building to facilitate heavy construction from November 2017 through March 2018. All services in the CSD Service Catalog will remain available throughout our transition to swing spaces. Our GOAL is there will be no impact to our End-Users throughout this evolution.

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Payroll Processing Schedule for 2018

Pay Period	Period Begin Date	Period End Date	Payment Date	SPO Data Entry Cut Off	Finalized Date	Payroll Sent to Treasury (estimate)
Mid-Month	1/1/2018	1/15/2018	1/12/2018	1/04/2018	1/09/2018	1/10/2018
End-Month	1/16/2018	1/31/2018	2/1/2018	1/17/2018	1/22/2018	1/30/2018
Mid-Month	2/1/2018	2/15/2018	2/15/2018	2/07/2018	2/12/2018	2/13/2018
End-Month	2/16/2018	2/28/2018	3/1/2018	2/15/2018	2/20/2018	2/27/2018
Mid-Month	3/1/2018	3/15/2018	3/15/2018	3/7/2018	3/12/2018	3/13/2018
End-Month	3/16/2018	3/31/2018	3/30/2018	3/19/2018	3/22/2018	3/28/2018
Mid-Month	4/1/2018	4/15/2018	4/13/2018	4/5/2018	4/10/2018	4/11/2018
End-Month	4/16/2018	4/30/2018	5/1/2018	4/16/2018	4/19/2018	4/27/2018
Mid-Month	5/1/2018	5/15/2018	5/15/2018	5/7/2018	5/10/2018	5/11/2018
End-Month	5/16/2018	5/31/2018	6/1/2018	5/17/2018	5/22/2018	5/30/2018
Mid-Month	6/1/2018	6/15/2018	6/15/2018	6/7/2018	6/12/2018	6/13/2018
End-Month	6/16/2018	6/30/2018	6/29/2018	6/18/2018	6/21/2018	6/27/2018
Mid-Month	7/1/2018	7/15/2018	7/13/2018	7/5/2018	7/10/2018	7/11/2018
End-Month	7/16/2018	7/31/2018	8/1/2018	7/17/2018	7/20/2018	7/30/2018
Mid-Month	8/1/2018	8/15/2018	8/15/2018	8/7/2018	8/10/2018	8/13/2018
End-Month	8/16/2018	8/31/2018	8/31/2018	8/17/2018	8/22/2018	8/29/2018
Mid-Month	9/1/2018	9/15/2018	9/14/2018	9/6/2018	9/11/2018	9/12/2018
End-Month	9/16/2018	9/30/2018	10/1/2018	9/13/2018	9/19/2018	9/27/2018
Mid-Month	10/1/2018	10/15/2018	10/15/2018	10/4/2018	10/10/2018	10/11/2018
End-Month	10/16/2018	10/31/2018	11/1/2018	10/16/2018	10/19/2018	10/30/2018
Mid-Month	11/1/2018	11/15/2018	11/15/2018	11/6/2018	11/9/2018	11/13/2018
End-Month	11/16/2018	11/30/2018	11/30/2018	11/15/2018	11/20/2018	11/28/2018
Mid-Month	12/1/2018	12/15/2018	12/14/2018	12/6/2018	12/11/2018	12/12/2018
End-Month	12/16/2018	12/31/2018	12/31/2018	12/18/2018	12/21/2018	12/28/2018

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Payroll Processing Schedule Terminology

Term	Definition
SPO Data Approval Cutoff /Blackout Dates	<p>Last day for SPO Payment Approving Officials (PAOs) to approve transactions for the next payday. The SPO Data Approval Cutoff is imperative to allow PPC to identify and correct critical errors prior to the Payroll Finalization Processing Date. During the period between SPO Data Approval Cutoff and the Payroll Finalization Processing Date ("blackout dates") an approval freeze is in effect. Only the following transactions may be approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short-Term Orders: If the ADT-AT orders or Short-Term ADOS orders have a begin or end date on/or after the SPO Data Entry/Approval date and BEFORE the Payroll Finalization Processing Date, SPOs are authorized to approve the orders (put in "En route" or "Finished" status) and associated pay entitlements (e.g. BAH). DO NOT approve orders or entitlements on Payroll Finalization Processing Date (approvals on the Payroll Finalization Processing Date will cause payroll finalize to error out). ONLY orders with a begin or end date that falls within these specifics date ranges are authorized to be put in an "En route" or "Finished" status. • Drills: Inactive Duty for Training (IDT) Drills, Funeral Honors Duty (FHD), Readiness Management Periods (RMP), and Additional Training Periods (ATP) and any pay entitlements associated with the drills may be approved between the blackout dates. If the IDT, FHD, RMP, or ATP drills have a completed date on/or after the SPO Data Entry/Approval date and BEFORE the Payroll Finalization Processing Date, SPOs are authorized to approve the drills (put in "Completed - Yes" status (approved for payment)) and any associated pay entitlements (e.g. meals). Do not approve drills or pay entitlements on the Payroll Finalization Processing Date (approvals on the Payroll Finalization Processing Date will cause payroll finalize to error out). Only drills and associated pay entitlements with a completion date that falls within these specific date ranges are authorized to be put in a "Completed - Yes" status (approved for payment). <p>Note: SPOs will continue to enter pay transaction requests after the cut, but PAOs must not approve any transactions (other than Drills and short-term orders as discussed above), as these approved transactions change the pay data PPC (MAS) is trying to validate. However, SPOs must enter and approve transactions when contacted by PPC (MAS) or (SEP) during the blackout period to correct an error condition.</p>

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Term	Definition
Payroll Finalization Processing Date	Date PPC (MAS) completes processing for the pay period, readies files for transmission to Treasury and, if an end-month pay period, transmission to the Coast Guard General Ledger. Following completion of these processes, PPC (MAS) opens the payroll calendar for the next pay period and SPOs will resume data entry and approvals ON THE DAY FOLLOWING THE "PAYROLL FINALIZATION PROCESSING DATE." No data entry/approvals are permitted on the Payroll Finalization Date.
Payroll Sent to Treasury	The <i>estimated</i> date PPC will transfer files to Treasury for processing. In accordance with NACHA Operating Rules , payments must be made available for withdrawal no later than the opening of business on the settlement date (provided the entries are made available to the Receiving Depository Financial Institution (RDFI) by its ACH operator no later than 5:00 p.m. on the business day prior to the settlement date). Some RDFIs make deposits available upon receipt from Treasury while others hold the funds until the settlement date.
